



# University of Pittsburgh

## *Community and Governmental Relations*

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November 1, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,  
Government Information and International Security  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
439 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Attention: Ms. Anna Shopen

Fax Number: 202 228-3796

Dear Senator Coburn:

I am responding to your letter of July 27, 2006, on behalf of the University of Pittsburgh regarding federal appropriations that we have received over the past six years. The University of Pittsburgh is a state-related public university of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with proven faculty success in attracting significant federal funding for scientific research through the merit-based, peer-reviewed procedures of various federal departments and agencies. The four major sources of peer-reviewed research funds for the University are the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the National Science Foundation. In 2005, the University received more than \$600 million in total sponsored grants and contracts, including nearly \$500 million in federal research funding. The University currently ranks seventh nationally among the academic institutions awarded peer-reviewed funds from NIH.

We agree with you on the importance of "shepherd[ing] taxpayer dollars to achieve the best possible outcomes" and "the value of good scientific research." We believe federal research funds awarded to our faculty researchers have been used wisely and appropriately, leading to an advancement in knowledge, the development or discovery of new or improved products and processes, the cure or mitigation of disease, the promotion of health, the engagement and training of students to be scientists of the future, the enrichment of classroom instruction, and an increased rigor and productivity of the research enterprise overall. We have found that the supplementation of significant merit-based research funds by relatively small amounts of appropriated funds has been important to and supportive of many research faculty on campus and their scientific work.

In specific response to your questions:

- 1) For a list of appropriations received by the University for the time period FY2001-FY2007, please refer to Attachment A. Please note that at times individual faculty

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members independently submit appropriations requests apart from the University process. Our response to this question is believed to be accurate to the best of our knowledge, but may not include appropriations received by such independent faculty members if their requests have not come to our attention. In addition, our responses do not include any appropriations activities or projects for separate hospitals and health systems at which our medical faculty members may have clinical privileges.

2) Also refer to Attachment A for a summary of specific objectives or goals to be achieved by any entity, program, project or service associated with an appropriation. We are compiling a list of accomplishments that can be attributed to each project which we will provide as the information becomes available, but a number of projects receiving appropriations are still underway. In general the projects achieve some or all of the objectives or goals articulated at the outset of the research. The proposals faculty researchers must submit to federal agencies before appropriated funds can be awarded also set out expected objectives or goals. The projects are not high-risk, speculative research, but generally build upon previous, proven research that has often—if not usually—been funded through the peer review process.

3) The University of Pittsburgh has an informal but rigorous process for the selection of appropriations requests. The criteria we apply are the following:

- The project and/or its principal investigators must have a proven track record of competent and successful merit-based research;
- There is clear evidence of a national, state, or local need;
- The project must require additional funding above the University's investment and donor contributions;
- The federal funding agencies should have a demonstrable interest in the topic and need for the research; and
- The science must be rigorous, able to withstand objective scrutiny for quality and the likelihood of positive outcomes, and reasonably benefit any collaborators, including the federal government as a partner.

Following the selection of a few appropriations requests each fiscal year, any project that receives appropriated funds is subject to continuous oversight and evaluation at various levels, including the government program officer at the funding agency, the academic department, the academic school, the relevant Office of Research, the Institutional Review Board if human subjects are involved, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee if non-human animals are used, and the investigators' peers through the scientific review and publishing processes.

- 4) The University does not have a stated policy regarding either Congressional earmarks/appropriations or partnering in research projects with other universities which may have a differing policy.
- 5) The University of Pittsburgh has hired lobbyists to provide assistance with the opportunities that may exist to obtain Federal funds for research. At the present time, the

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University has retained two firms as its Washington representatives. The University and the two firms have registered with and report their covered lobbying expenditures to the offices of the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate as required under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

- 6) Congressionally earmarked funds are one of many sources of research revenue to the University of Pittsburgh—though a relatively small amount in comparison to the University's overall research budget. All of them are valued as they permit the campus research enterprise to operate, improve, and expand. We try to ensure that all research revenues from every source are used as reasonably, efficiently, economically, appropriately, and successfully as possible. For example, appropriated funds in the recent past have been used to jump start a new avenue of inquiry by an established researcher, provide campus-wide access to a Fourier mass spectrometer for high throughput proteomics research, and supplement existing research relationships with the Department of Defense for drug discovery and vaccine development to protect and improve the health of members of the armed forces.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact me at 412 624-6011.

Sincerely,



Eugenia C. Stoner, Esq.  
Assistant Vice Chancellor,  
Federal Government Relations

Attachment

Attachment A: University of Pittsburgh Appropriations FY2001-FY2007

<u>FY</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Objectives</u>
FY2007	Biodefense Vaccine Development And Engineering	\$1 Million	Building upon the vaccine expertise going back to the polio vaccine work of Dr. Jonas Salk, perform research leading to the development of vaccines for CDC Category A, B, and C priority pathogens, including influenza, drug-resistant "superstrain" tuberculosis, and viral hemorrhagic fevers, among others, for civilian and military use. Collaborate with faculty researchers at the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory on campus.
FY2007	Nanotechnology Research with AMRDEC	\$1 Million	In furtherance of an existing CRADA with an Army research facility in Alabama, perform collaborative research in nanoscience and nanotechnology that will result in the development of ultra-secure communications capabilities, high-bandwidth optical communications, ultra-lightweight and low-power computing, and biomedical benefits to the combat soldier.
FY2007	Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence Technology Transfer Project/National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technologies*	\$1.4 Million	Identify necessary first responder technologies, coordinate with researchers, and transfer technology to commercial production for military and civilian use.
FY2006	Biodefense Vaccine Development And Engineering/Advanced Technology For Vaccines and Engineering	\$5.25 Million	Building upon the vaccine expertise going back to the polio vaccine work of Dr. Jonas Salk, perform research leading to the development of vaccines for CDC Category A, B, and C priority pathogens, including influenza, drug-resistant "superstrain" tuberculosis, and viral hemorrhagic fevers, among others, for civilian and military use. Collaborate with faculty researchers at the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory on campus.
FY2006	Center for Proteomics*	\$2.6 Million	In collaboration with the Windber Research Institute, perform research and develop procedures for protein identification and analysis to further Army research goals and medical needs. Specific focus areas are the pursuit of new methodologies in the diagnosis of cancer and other life-threatening diseases without surgical biopsy, leading to treatments using nano-engineered proteins. (UPCI and Windber)

Attachment A: University of Pittsburgh Appropriations FY2001-FY2007, continued

FY	Project Name	Amount	Objectives
FY2006	Clinical Trials Using a Piezoelectric Dry Powder Inhalation Device*	\$3.4 Million	Develop inhaled, dry powder drug delivery system for the administration of atropine to replace the Army's Medical Aerosolized Nerve Agent Antidote (MANAA) which uses a chlorofluorocarbon propellant that must for environmental reasons be replaced.
FY2006	Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence Technology Transfer Project/National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technologies*	\$1.7 Million	Identify necessary first responder technologies, coordinate with researchers, and transfer technology to commercial production for military and civilian use.
FY2006	Orphan Disease Drug Discovery Program	\$1.7 Million	Identify and develop small molecules which drug-like attributes for the treatment of so-called "orphan" and "neglected" diseases that affect smaller but still significant numbers of patients in the military and civilian sectors.
FY2005	Clinical Trials Using a Piezoelectric Dry Powder Inhalation Device*	\$4 Million	Develop inhaled, dry powder drug delivery system for the administration of atropine to replace the Army's Medical Aerosolized Nerve Agent Antidote (MANAA) which uses a chlorofluorocarbon propellant that must be replaced for environmental reasons.
FY2005	Orphan Disease Drug Discovery Program	\$2 Million	Identify and develop small molecules which drug-like attributes for the treatment of so-called "orphan" and "neglected" diseases that affect smaller but still significant numbers of patients in the military and civilian sectors.
FY2005	Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence Technology Transfer Project/National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technologies*	\$1.5 Million	Identify necessary first responder technologies, coordinate with researchers, and transfer technology to commercial production for military and civilian use.

Attachment A: University of Pittsburgh Appropriations FY2001-FY2007, continued

<u>FY</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Objectives</u>
FY2005	Fourier Transform Mass Spectrometer	\$1 Million	Provide the necessary capability for the use of all university faculty to identify and analyze proteins for proteomics research and related drug discovery
FY2005	Center for Proteomics and Nano-Engineering	\$4.3 Million	In collaboration with the Windber Research Institute, perform research and develop procedures for protein identification and analysis to further Army research goals and medical needs. Specific focus areas are the pursuit of new methodologies in the diagnosis of cancer and other life-threatening diseases without surgical biopsy, leading to treatments using nano-engineered proteins. (UPCI and Windber)
FY2004	Center for Proteomics and Nano-Engineering	\$3.4 Million	In collaboration with the Windber Research Institute, perform research and develop procedures for protein identification and analysis to further Army research goals and medical needs. Specific focus areas are the pursuit of new methodologies in the diagnosis of cancer and other life-threatening diseases without surgical biopsy, leading to treatments using nano-engineered proteins. (UPCI and Windber)
FY2004	Center for DNA Repair	\$1 Million	Establish research center for the investigation of DNA repair mechanisms in context of susceptibility to cancer, including discovery of new DNA repair genes and targets to improve cancer therapy, analysis of variations in repair capability, and relationship of DNA damage to premature aging.
FY2004	Emergency Hypothermia for Advanced Combat Casualty [Care] and Delayed Resuscitation*	\$2.3 Million	In collaboration with DoD, develop breakthrough technology of emergency preservation that allows surgical repair of otherwise lethal wounds in victims of exsanguination with cardiac arrest, which is almost always fatal under conventional resuscitation and which is a leading cause of death in the Iraq war. Conduct animal trials.
FY2004	Autism Initiative	\$ .25 Million	Provide additional programming for autism patients and their families through The Center of Excellence for Autism Research
FY2004	Center for Rural Health Practice*	\$ .2 Million	Provide additional programming for university-based center developing innovative health care programs and research for rural, under-served areas.

Attachment A: University of Pittsburgh Appropriations FY2001-FY2007, continued

FY	Project Name	Amount	Objectives
FY2004	Center for Sports Medicine*	\$ .1 Million	Determine the prevalence of knee injuries in female athletes
FY2004	Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence Technology Transfer Project/National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technologies*	\$1.53 Million	Identify necessary first responder technologies, coordinate with researchers, and transfer technology to commercial production for military and civilian use.
FY2004	Intravenous Membrane Oxygenator *	\$1 Million	Develop toward clinical trials fiber-optic catheter to serve as bridge to recovery in cases of otherwise fatal lung damage from trauma, poison gas, and other injuries and insults (artificial lung).
FY2004	Clinical Trial Utilizing a Piezoelectric Dry Powder Inhalation Device*	\$ .85 Million	Develop inhaled, dry powder drug delivery system for the administration of atropine to replace the Army's Medical Aerosolized Nerve Agent Antidote (MANAA) which uses a chlorofluorocarbon propellant that must be replaced for environmental reasons.
FY2003	Clinical Trial Utilizing a Piezoelectric Dry Powder Inhalation Device*	\$1.7 Million	Develop inhaled, dry powder drug delivery system for the administration of atropine to replace the Army's Medical Aerosolized Nerve Agent Antidote (MANAA) which uses a chlorofluorocarbon propellant that must be replaced for environmental reasons.
FY2003	Emergency Hypothermia for Advanced Combat Casualty [Care] and Delayed Resuscitation*	\$2.21 Million	In collaboration with DoD, develop breakthrough technology of emergency preservation that allows surgical repair of otherwise lethal wounds in victims of exsanguination with cardiac arrest, which is almost always fatal under conventional resuscitation and which is a leading cause of death in the Iraq war.
FY2003	Intravenous Membrane Oxygenator*	\$1 Million	Develop for clinical trials fiber-optic catheter to serve as bridge to recovery in cases of otherwise fatal lung damage from trauma, poison gas, and other injuries and insults (artificial lung).

Attachment A: University of Pittsburgh Appropriations FY2001-FY2007, continued

FY	Project Name	Amount	Objectives
FY2003	Rural Telemedicine Demonstration Project*	\$1 Million	Provide increased and improved access to distant medical professionals for individuals in medically underserved rural areas (through telemedicine).
FY2003	Artificial, Bio-Hybrid Liver Development	\$1.78 Million	Develop extracorporeal liver support systems with bioreactors to use as bridge to human organ transplant or re-transplant (artificial liver).
FY2003	Panther LabWorks*	\$.525 Million	Provide consultative services to expedite technology commercialization.
FY2003	Center for Bioterrorism Preparedness (shared with Carnegie Mellon University)	\$1.63 Million	Develop collaborative, multi-disciplinary center to address local, regional, and national preparedness research and programs.
FY2003	Center for Rural Health Practice*	\$.3 Million	Provide additional programming for university-based center developing innovative health care programs and research for rural, under-served areas.
FY2002	Emergency Hypothermia for Advanced Combat Casualty [Care] and Delayed Resuscitation*	\$2.6 Million	In collaboration with DoD, develop breakthrough technology of emergency preservation that allows surgical repair of otherwise lethal wounds in victims of exsanguination with cardiac arrest, which is almost always fatal under conventional resuscitation and which is a leading cause of death in the Iraq war.
FY2001	Emergency Hypothermia for Advanced Combat Casualty [Care] and Delayed Resuscitation*	\$3 Million	In collaboration with DoD, develop breakthrough technology of emergency preservation that allows surgical repair of otherwise lethal wounds in victims of exsanguination with cardiac arrest, which is almost always fatal under conventional resuscitation and which is a leading cause of death in the Iraq war.

\*Not part of the University's request, but submitted independently by faculty members or others